

military pay] . . . another 30% . . . goes towards training . . . so you are left with very little in terms of procurement.—Chief of Staff, Army, Gen Dennis Reimer, March 13, 1996.

Mr. COATS. Second, Mr. President, let me state that there are a number of programs in the past that the Department of Defense has not requested, which this Congress has determined are important to be added to the Department of Defense budget. And we have done so. Looking back, in hindsight it is a good thing that we did. Strategic sealift: Now the Department of Defense comes and says it is one of their top priorities. They did not require it, nor request it before, maybe because the administration said do not do it. They are darned glad that we did not abide by their request. Some of the C-17's, the V-22, countermine efforts—we find that we were seriously underfunded and underprepared in the past in terms of dealing with countermine activity. This Congress made a decision to go forward and fund some of that. We are darned glad they did, and the Defense Department is darned glad that they did.

So let us be realistic on this. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Wellstone amendment for the reasons stated. It is simply a misstatement of what the request is from the Department of Defense. It is more a statement of what the administration would like out of defense, which is to cut it, to cut it, and cut it so that they can take the money and fund their favorite programs and not provide for adequate security for this country.

Mr. President, how much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. COATS. I regret that because I am just getting warmed up. I will cease and desist.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I notice that the negotiations are still going on. I am prepared to stop talking as soon as they are prepared to go forward. In the meantime, rather than dead air, I thought I would say one more thing about the Wellstone amendment.

I have had the opportunity in the last few years as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee to examine our military housing that we provide for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, both married personnel and their families, as well as single personnel.

It is a shocking statistic to note that more than 60 percent of current mili-

tary housing, family and single housing, is substandard by military standards. Military standards are generally lower than civilian standards. The houses that you and I live in, the apartments that the single individuals live in, are built to a far higher quality and standard than what the military enjoys.

It is part of the nature of the military that they salute and serve and do not complain. But it is virtually a disgrace to note the condition of some of this housing: Deteriorating ceilings, leaking pipes, asbestos-lined pipes in the ceilings, falling plaster, crumbling stairways, inadequate space for families and for children.

I commend the Secretary of Defense and the Department of Defense for recognizing this problem and taking some initiative to deal with it. But we are a long way from solving this problem. In fact, if we stayed at the current pace of renovation, it would take 30 years to bring military housing up to the standard level. Of course, by that time all housing that is standard today would be substandard.

So it is a never-ending cycle. We need to accelerate that process, and we hope we will accelerate that process. But to suggest that defense is overfunded when we are asking our service families to live in substandard housing and when we are asking our service members to live in substandard barracks and are asking them to live in the conditions that they live I think it is misunderstanding the situation as it currently exists in the United States military.

Just recently I was touring some barracks and housing facilities in Georgia. I was informed by the commander of a number of units that the soldiers were on their off time on Saturdays and Sundays and weekends going out to Home Depot to purchase materials and voluntarily giving up of their time to repair some of their facilities just so that they can take showers and live in some kind of decent housing situation.

So I think it is important to recognize that this continual 12-year decline in real terms in defense spending is not only affecting our ability to fight future wars, to have the technology, research and modernization necessary but it is eroding the quality of life of our service personnel which is going to affect our ability to attract the kind of people we want to serve in the military.

I hope my colleagues will take that into consideration in considering the vote on the Wellstone amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the church burning provision of the previous unanimous-consent request made by the Senator from South Carolina alone be renewed. So I am asking unanimous consent that that portion of the overall

request propounded by the Senator from South Carolina which was objected to, the church burning part of that, alone be renewed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3525) to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4341

(Purpose: To propose a substitute)

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, under the unanimous-consent agreement, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senators KENNEDY, HATCH, BIDEN, KOHL, SARBANES, and NUNN, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH], for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. NUNN proposes an amendment numbered 4341.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of arson or other destruction or vandalism of places of religious worship, and the incidence of violent interference with an individual's lawful exercise or attempted exercise of the right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship pose a serious national problem.

(2) The incidence of arson of places of religious worship has recently increased, especially in the context of places of religious worship that serve predominantly African-American congregations.

(3) Changes in Federal law are necessary to deal properly with this problem.

(4) Although local jurisdictions have attempted to respond to the challenges posed by such acts of destruction or damage to religious property, the problem is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in scope to warrant Federal intervention to assist State and local jurisdictions.

(5) Congress has authority, pursuant to the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, to make acts of destruction or damage to religious property a violation of Federal law.

(6) Congress has authority, pursuant to section 2 of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, to make actions of private citizens motivated by race, color, or ethnicity that interfere with the ability of citizens to hold or use religious property without fear of attack, violations of Federal criminal law.

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF VIOLENT INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—